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The Issue.

One clear note runs through the whole
of Mr. Hughes's speech of acceptance. It
is a challenge of incapacity, an indictment
of failure.

"The dealings of the Administration
with Mexico constitute a confused chapter
of blunders." Thus reads the opening sen-
tence of the Mexican sub-section. But that
thought could be repeated and amplified in
every other section which deals with the
accomplishment of the Wilson Administra-
tion in those large fields where decision of
thought, poise of mind and energy of char-
acter are demanded of a statesman and na-
tional leader.

Mr. Wilson's attitude toward the big
problems of the day—both national and
international—has been that of a diletti-
tante. His policies have been happy impro-
visations, drawn out of a hat. They have
been subject to change and to reversal, to
eclipse and reeffulgence. Washington has
lived in an orgy of benevolent phrases,
each treading his elder brother down or
elbowing him out of the limelight.

We have had a government of catch-
words and hall-room mottoes, with inter-
vals of watchful expectation between—just
the reverse of that normal process of toil-
some forethought and drudging prepara-
tion which national policies, to strike
deep, must germinate and ripen.

The indictment drawn in Mr. Hughes's
speech is rightly an indictment of Mr.
Wilson's whole procedure as a statesman—
his scattering point of view, his roving im-
pulses, his undisciplined methods of doing
business. There has been no large ques-
tion before the Administration on which
the President has not shown the same fatal
vacillations and mutations. The Mexican
policy is a perfect jigsaw puzzle. There is
nothing Mr. Wilson has ever said or done
with reference to Mexico which cannot be
matched with some absolutely contradic-
tory saying or action.

He has intervened and also declared that
he never intervened and never intended to
intervene. He said that he went into Vera
Cruz to obtain a salute for the flag, and
recently through a member of his Cabinet
he has denied that such was the purpose of
the Vera Cruz expedition. He has an-
nounced that the Mexicans ought to be al-
lowed to spill one another's blood without
hindrance and to establish their own form
of government without American interfer-
ence. Yet he worked for more than a year
to oust Huerta from office, finally succeed-
ing, and worked for still another year to
eliminate Carranza, finally failing and
then recognizing Carranza's government
by way of compensation.

Every lack of consistency, clearness and
decision which Mr. Hughes justly criti-
cizes in the big drama of Mexican blun-
ders has its counterpart, smaller but still
distinct, on other stages of political ac-
tivity.

Mr. Wilson's hot-and-cold fits, his
alternate hesitations and bass-drum beat-
ings, have figured in all his diplomacy and
in all his domestic manoeuvres. He has
been on both sides of the Pan-American
issue. He has leaned now forward, now
backward, on the preservation of neutral
rights; he has been for preparedness and
against it, for a tariff commission and
against it, for the better protection of
American industries at the end of the war
and again not so strongly for such pro-
tection, for scuttling out of the Philippines
and then willing to forego scuttling.

It would be impossible to comprise with-
in one speech of 8,000 words more than a
fraction of the hundreds of details on
which an indictment of the Wilson Admin-
istration for errancy, instability and un-
dependability must be based. Mr. Hughes
has chosen the issues which bulk largest—
Mexico, the preservation of neutral rights,
preparedness, protection and the Philip-
pines. On these the record is clear and
overwhelming. No other American Presi-
dent has ever shown the lack of grasp,
of clear conception and common sense states-
manship that Mr. Wilson has shown on
this large range of vital national
problems.

The case against the President in this
campaign is thus put into a nutshell. It
is an appeal for a vote of non-confidence
in a man who has shown that he lacks in
office all the vital qualities which inspire
confidence. Watchful waiting, drifting,
opportunism in speech, but not even the
saving grace of happy-go-lucky oppor-
tunism in action—these are not the mak-
ings of an administrator who in times of
stress must rise to public needs, main-

tain the traditions of an honorable past
and strengthen the prestige of the nation
for future uses.

Mr. Wilson can expect nothing from the
country but a fair judgment on his own
record. That is all the Republican party,
through its candidate, now asks. Long
as it is, Mr. Hughes's indictment is the
one thing which the Administration can-
not successfully meet. For to meet it is to
open wider than ever to public view all
that melancholy record of ineptitude,
which, as Mr. Hughes rightly says, can-
not be examined by any real American to-
day without the profoundest sense of
humiliation.

Mr. Hughes and the German Issue.

It would be idle to pretend that the por-
tion of Mr. Hughes's address which deals
with the Lusitania massacre and our re-
lations with Germany is satisfactory to
the Tribune. Nor shall we undertake to
make any such pretence.

What Mr. Hughes says about President
Wilson's responsibility in the matter The
Tribune has often said. It is the convic-
tion of many Americans that had Grover
Cleveland or Theodore Roosevelt been
President of the United States no such
crime would have been committed, because
the threat contained in the advertisement
of German purpose in American newspa-
pers would have been met by a counter-
warning unmistakable in tone and carry-
ing with it the conviction which the per-
sonality of either of these strong men
would have imparted.

The difficulty with Mr. Hughes's com-
ment lies in the fact that it supplies just
exactly that degree of vagueness which
will enable the German-Americans to
indorse it and continue in their campaign
directed against Mr. Wilson because he
failed in all things to satisfy them.

For better or for worse Mr. Hughes has
declined to stand upon the German issue
as The Tribune hoped he would stand.
We shall all of us have to face the ques-
tion of voting with the German-Americans
for Mr. Hughes and thereby giving them
a pretext for claiming a standing in Ameri-
can politics, or voting for President Wil-
son and insuring four years more of the
weakness which made the Lusitania pos-
sible and the Mexican situation so help-
less.

In this dilemma The Tribune prefers to
support the man it believes will make the
ablest President, the wiser and stronger
Chief Executive. It knows that if Mr.
Hughes is elected no German-American
agitator will derive aid or comfort from
the White House, and it is satisfied that
the German-Americans who vote for Mr.
Hughes will get nothing more substantial
than the possible gratification of an ignoble
and alien grudge.

It believes Mr. Hughes would have been
wiser had he chosen to deprive the hypera-
tes of this possible cause for rejoicing.
It believes that such a course on Mr.
Hughes's part would have aroused an en-
thusiasm and enlisted a support which
may now be lacking in the campaign.

But Mr. Hughes has decided to make
his campaign on the Mexican issue, and
there is no choice for a newspaper which
believes, as The Tribune does, that Mr.
Hughes will make a better President than
Mr. Wilson has but to accept the situation
as it is.

Wire-Tapping Approved.

The nonsense and misstatement which
in certain quarters decried the activities of
the police in pursuing crime over the tele-
phone are effectively answered in the re-
port by Magistrate House. He has in-
vestigated all the cases reported and his
approval is sweeping. In no cases were
wires tapped for private or political rea-
sons. No legal rights were infringed. And
the benefits to justice and the pursuit of
crime were considerable.

The broad right of the question and the
urgent need of the practice in the highest
public interest are accurately put by Mag-
istrate House:

"Deny the rights of the police to tap
wires in the performance of legitimate
police work, then the police will be
forced to go back to where they were
before the time of the telephone—com-
pelled to use the best means then at
hand, while the criminal is privileged to
use the telephone to aid him in his
criminal acts."

That is unimpeachable logic. To per-
mit any other policy to prevail would be
to yield common sense and justice before a
campaign of hysterics and lies.

A Hint to the Charitable.

Nothing will come of the attempt to
provoke a quarrel on account of the treas-
urer of the Irish Relief Fund raised here.
The British Home Secretary explained in
the House of Commons yesterday that
while "there is no objection to persons
from America assisting in the administra-
tion of relief funds for Ireland," the gov-
ernment did not think it advisable to coun-
tenance every one "whose ostensible ob-
ject was as stated." Ireland has already
suffered enough at the hands of professing
benefactors in this country, and it is high
time to use a little intelligence in guard-
ing against mischief-makers.

If in this case the authorities appear
overcautious to some compassionate peo-
ple here, allowance must be made for the
suspicions naturally aroused by the very
indiscreet methods used in raising funds.
The gross exaggerations with regard
to conditions in Dublin, the fantastic
nonsense about the cruelty of martial law
and the destitution and misery through-
out the whole country, to say nothing of
the cooperation of German-Americans in
these charitable enterprises, have tended
naturally to create doubts about the can-
dor and disinterestedness of all such pro-
moters.

The Nationalists in Ireland have al-
ready done much to relieve the sufferings
of those who were dependent on the vic-
tims of the insane rebellion. Those who
desire to send further help should be care-

ful in the choice of their emissaries. The
miseries of Ireland are due largely to self-
ish mischief makers here, and the govern-
ment cannot be expected in times like these
to run any risks.

No City-Wide Strike.

Neither side in the car strike has thus
far set forth either conduct or a case cal-
culated to win public sympathy. The em-
ployees have committed several serious
breaches of the peace. The companies
have put gangsters and incompetents in
charge of cars, with several serious acci-
dents as the result. The labor leaders
have made no effort to explain or defend
the objects which they seek. Mr. Whit-
ridge left for Europe as the strike threat-
ened, leaving behind only a no-surrender
policy. The whole combined course of ac-
tion indicates an utter failure to realize
the public's right and interest in the con-
test. Both sides act as if they were fight-
ing a personal brawl on a street corner.

As the extreme of heedlessness, the threat
of a city-wide sympathetic strike, tying up
the entire traffic of surface, subway and el-
evated lines, has been ascribed to the strike
leaders. A denial of such intention has
since been made, and we hope greatly that
the strikers will not commit this grievous
blunder. Their strength lies neither in
bludgeons nor threats nor a wanton crip-
pling of the city, and unless the leaders of
the strikers have the intellect to appreciate
this truth and the force to apply it they
are not fit to lead a modern labor contest
and are doomed to defeat in advance.

As for the facts of the dispute, it is the
duty and opportunity of the strikers to
state their case fully and fairly. Is it
solely unionization that they seek? Or are
there wage and labor conditions of which
they complain? If there are such griev-
ances let us understand the basis of them.
The sooner the labor leaders realize that
they must deal not only with the car com-
panies but with the public as chief suf-
ferer and final arbiter, the better for their
cause.

The Blacklist Protest.

Mr. Polk's blacklist protest to the
British government is correct in form and
unanswerable in logic. The blacklist is an
illegitimate weapon when used to intimi-
date and injure innocent third persons, not
concerned in the quarrel between the
blacklisted and the blackliester. It is all
right for Great Britain to prohibit her
subjects from dealing with neutral firms
or individuals suspected of aiding Ger-
many. But if, as Mr. Polk says, the pro-
scription ordered by London is to run to
neutral steamship lines which transport
the goods of the blacklisted firms and in-
dividuals, or to bankers who give them ac-
commodations, then a secondary boycott
is being set up, which flagrantly violates
neutral rights and punishes Americans
who have done nothing whatever in the
way of illicit traffic with Britain's enemies.

Moreover, American citizens, as such,
have a right to trade with the Teutonic
Allies, subject to the ordinary wartime
rules of international law. The correct
and straightforward thing to do is to seize
the property of such traders, if it is
contraband, and to condemn it under the
law of blockade. To put in force a secret
proscription, imposing penalties in the
dark, without legal examination or trial,
is a method of restraint on trade with
enemy nations which cannot be expected
to appeal to a neutral's sense of fair play.

The blacklist order was a mistake in
policy on Great Britain's part. The game
is not worth the candle. Only dribbles of
commerce with the Central European
Powers will be stopped by it. But at the
same time the patience of the United
States is being sorely tried by vexatious
interferences with the routine of its
foreign intercourse. We still have the
right to go on doing foreign business, as
far as we can, exchanging mails and prod-
ucts which are not contraband. We have
suffered many petty interferences with
our lawful trade. But the time may come
when we shall tire of the arbitrary and
trivial obstructions which an unimaginative
policy in the British Foreign Office
seems bent on putting in our way.

Piffing Names for Natural Objects.

(From The Minneapolis Journal.)
In Glacier National Park, Montana, are
peaks bearing such names as Rising Wolf
Mountain, Bear Head Mountain, Going to the
Sun Mountain, Red Eagle Mountain, Almost-
a-Dog Mountain.

In the same park are noble summits dis-
figured with such appellations as Stimson
Mountain, Pinchot Mountain, and it is pro-
posed to rename some crest with a sonorous
or suggestive Indian name after our present
inconsequent Secretary of the Navy. No wonder
the Blackfeet Indians protest.

As one goes west across Montana, from the
vast convex of the Great Plains there rises
southward a mass called the Bear Paw Moun-
tains, while a little further rise upon the
north the Sweet Water Hills. How eupho-
nious, even poetic, are these names!

There are in Montana counties named Silver
Bow, Deer Lodge and Beaver Head, but
even Montana could not get off without nam-
ing one county the eternal Cass. Just why
there should be a Cass County in about every
Western State no one knows, for Lewis Cass
is now all but forgotten.

But the practice of disfiguring a noble
landmark with the ugly cognomen of a piffing
politician should be sternly repressed. The
propensity is no more than the grown-up edi-
tion of the small-boy's itch to scribble his
name on the back of the barn. Henry Stim-
son, a worthy gentleman, was a good Secre-
tary of War. But if he fancies that his fam-
ily name is beautiful, his taste is small and
his vanity great. Stimson is so ugly a word,
indeed, that the mountain cursed by it ought
to become a volcano in order to blow its own
head off.

If these politicians had their way they
would rechristen the Sierra Nevada the Wood-
ward Range, call the Cascades the Will-
iam Howard Taft Mountains, change the
Bitter Root to Elihu, style the Colorado River
the W. J. Bryan, our own Red River of the
North or that of the South the J. Ham Lewis
stream, and designate Great Salt Lake as
Reed Smoot Pond.

FRANCE AND AMERICA M. Briand on the Living Symbol of Our Fraternity and Joint Ideals.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: A few days ago a young American,
heir to the best of our traditions, Victor
Chapman, of the American squadron, French
aviation service, saw three French fliers in
the air fighting four Germans. He drove his
machine higher to the rescue; came down
with great speed straight at the German ma-
chines and "sunk" two of them. As he did
so, a German bullet struck him. He fell dead
within the enemy lines.

I recall these facts because when this
letter reaches you they may no longer be
vivid to all of your readers, and because they
are the necessary background to a speech
part of which I now ask you to print.

At the American Fourth of July dinner in
Paris M. Aristide Briand, the French Premier,
spoke these words:

"Germany engraves with the coat of
arms on her cannon the brutal motto that
cannot be the final argument of kings.
We have a different ideal, you and we;—
the steel of our arms is of a different
temper; we believe in the power of right."

The sons of Revolutionary America
feel in the depths of their souls that the
present conflict is the last terrible con-
clusion in the secular fight between lib-
erty and tyranny. They understand that
the Allies are keeping their eyes fixed on
the bright promise of human libera-
tion and are writing in their blood the
world's charter of freedom. . . . I
cannot forget that American volunteers
have joined our nation in arms; I can-
not forget your daring aviators who, like
that living symbol of American idealism,
heroic Lieutenant Chapman, carry love of
our cause to the point of giving even
their lives for it.

France will not forget this new con-
fraternity, witness to our one devotion to
the same ideal. In the heroic days of
1781 your great founder said, "Justice is
the only road leading surely to renown."
Our Allies, and we the French, believe as
you believe, in this same justice.

Gentlemen, I lift my glass in honor of
the United States and . . . of the
eminent President of your Republic."

What irony—expressed neither in word nor
in tone—must the Premier of France have
felt in uttering that final phrase! He
saluted the office; not, we may assume, the
man. With equal respect for that office,
permit me to recall that the scholar now
holding it, exalted us—in the presence of
that unspeakable crime, the invasion of Bel-
gium—to remain "neutral in heart and mind."

Sir, I thank God that our volunteers,
among them Victor Chapman, have been
neutral neither in heart nor in mind; but
seeing the right have faced death for it.

HENRY COPELEY GREENE.
Beaune, France, July 7, 1916.

Against Impartiality.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I presume that many, like myself,
read the letter of "An American Woman" in
this morning's Tribune with indignation. At
this stage of the great war her plea to be
neutral, to give of our help to Central Powers
and Allies alike and to forget the causes of
the war strikes anything but a responsive
chord. Do let us substitute a little clear
thinking and intelligent action in place of
this maudlin sentimentality that, unfortu-
nately, possesses so many of our people.

What are the facts? The titanic struggle
across the sea is not one in which all the
powers rushed simultaneously; neither are
they all equally culpable, notwithstanding the
public statements of Mr. Wilson and the pas-
sive. Invaded France, ravaged Belgium, ex-
terminated Armenia, starving Serbia are all
these war mad? Yet "An American Woman"
wants us to forget the causes of the war.

Wander let us not cease to remember them
for one instant! From the first breaking of
treaties through the selfish acts of our own
countrymen and countrywomen on the Lusit-
ania—let us keep them ever before us.
Though technically America is neutral, her
citizens have long since ceased to be so. As I
heard someone rightly say the other day, the
title has become a synonym for pro-German
in most cases. The best thought, the best
effort, of the country is definitely ranged on
the side of the Allies. This could hardly be
otherwise after an impartial reading of the
history of the last two years. Those who are
still unconvinced of the righteousness of our
cause would do well to read some of the
accounts of eyewitnesses in the war, such as
Edith Wharton's "Fighting France" and
Frances Wilson Howard's "My Home on the
Field of Honor." Both of these women, by
the way, are also American women.

Suffering? Yes, there is plenty of it on
both sides, and it is pitiful and heart-sick-
ening. Yet the law that nations and individuals
both who transgress the principles of right
and humanity must pay the penalty cannot
be set aside, even for the victims of the
Hohenlohe. And those of us on this side
of the water who are doing our little to help
bring this war to a right conclusion are
certainly not going to share our contributions
with the Teutons, that they may be enabled
to continue their pillage, cruelties and rape.
Your correspondent quotes abundant Scrip-
ture to show that such an attitude is un-
Christian, but if I am not mistaken no leader
of any race or age was more vehement in
his denunciation of the lawless and pitiless
than Christ Himself. If the victims of the
Kaiser's greed for military glory are eager to
magnanimously themselves, then they deserve
our sympathy; but, as far as I can see, his
followers in both Europe and America continue
to "hock" him with oldtime vigor.

Let us, then, keep on making our bandages
and sending needed supplies to the Con-
tinental battlefields; but let them be for bleed-
ing Belgium, valiant France and courageous
England. If this struggle means anything
at all, it means that out of all the blood and
carnage will emerge an awakened Europe,
a safer America, a better world.

MAY EMERY HALL.
New York, July 22, 1916.

Sharks and the Business Sense.

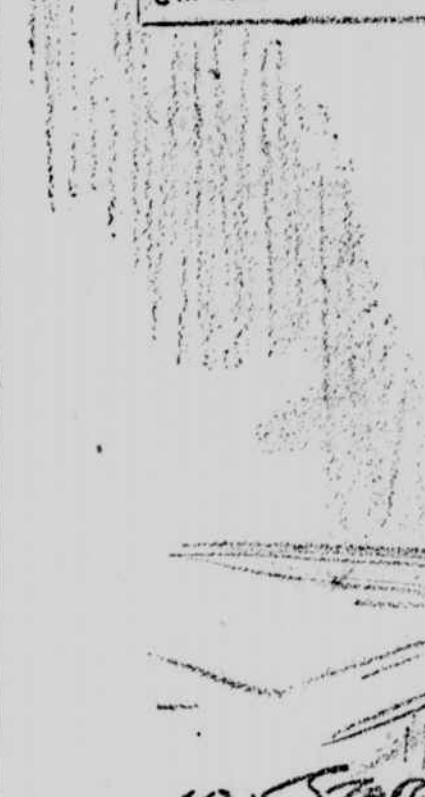
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Your correspondent, L. A. Wilmut Mil-
bury, bemoans the injury done to New Jer-
sey coast resorts by the shark stories. He
and his friends should, however, realize that
the fear of sharks exists and is operating to
deter visitors. Why have not the New Jersey
authorities sufficient energy and initiative to
net the bathing beaches and advertise the
fact? Here at Long Branch not one beach
is netted, and although at one place
near West End a netting has been de-
livered some time ago the proprietor is too
careless or indifferent to get it up.
New Jersey, call the Cascades the Will-
iam Howard Taft Mountains, change the
Bitter Root to Elihu, style the Colorado River
the W. J. Bryan, our own Red River of the
North or that of the South the J. Ham Lewis
stream, and designate Great Salt Lake as
Reed Smoot Pond.

But the practice of disfiguring a noble
landmark with the ugly cognomen of a piffing
politician should be sternly repressed. The
propensity is no more than the grown-up edi-
tion of the small-boy's itch to scribble his
name on the back of the barn. Henry Stim-
son, a worthy gentleman, was a good Secre-
tary of War. But if he fancies that his fam-
ily name is beautiful, his taste is small and
his vanity great. Stimson is so ugly a word,
indeed, that the mountain cursed by it ought
to become a volcano in order to blow its own
head off.

THE MAN AND THE ISSUE.

MEXICO
"IT IS A RECORD
WHICH CANNOT
BE EXAMINED
CAREFULLY WITHOUT
A SENSE OF
PROFOUND
HUMILIATION."

CHARLES E. HUGHES.



A CAMPAIGN OF APATHY

Not in Forty Years Has There Been So Little Interest in Candidates or Issues
—Can Mr. Hughes Tell Us Where He Stands "in Straight-Flung
Words and Few" That Will Arouse the Nation?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: This Presidential campaign bids fair
to be famous for general apathy beyond any
campaign for forty years. During the last
month I have talked with men from many
states and have been struck with their un-
willingness to discuss the candidates or the
issues. One man admits he is for Hughes;
another states he will probably vote for Wil-
son. Is there any discussion, any attempt
by either to convert the other? None that I
have yet observed. Frequently a remark
follows that after all it won't make much
difference which candidate is elected, and
the conversation turns quickly to golf, the
stock market or the unreasonable weather.
No excitement, no interest, no deep concern
over what may happen at the polls!

If my experience has not been unusual, is
not such a state of mind a perniciously un-
healthy symptom for a country that has so
much to decide—so much that may settle ir-
revocably the future of our children and
grandchildren as certainly as the answers to
the questions of 1860 determined the future
of the nation we are to-day? Better far the
bitterness of the elections following the Civil
War! Better far the excitement of the first
McKinley-Bryan campaign! And yet the
issues to-day touch more deeply the vital
being of our republican institutions than did
the question of one kind of money against
another. We, then, a people that is
stricken to every fibre by what affected the
money of the realm, or the highest or low-
ness of our customs duties, yet will remain
unmoved, unwilling even to argue, when mat-
ters involving the fundamental rights of man
and the very foundations of government are
being settled?

Our National Guardians (as many as
could be mustered) are now on the border—
"Wilson's conscripts" they have been fitly
called—doing their willing, patriotic best,
though untrained and poorly equipped, to
perform duties that should be performed by
an adequate regular army. That necessary
army has been refused by a Democratic Con-
gress, with the acquiescence of a Democratic
President and of the large part of the Republi-
can minority in Congress. And that refusal
was in the face of national peril from
several directions obvious to all who were
not unwilling to see. Our relations with
other powers are in a chaotic and humiliating
state; the lives of our people are taken and
our rights are trampled on by nations who
are coming to despise us because of the
failure of those at the head of our govern-
ment who do not know their jobs, are in-
capable of transacting our nation's business
with other nations, and do not care to learn
to seek competent advice and help—dis-
tillers, who will not face the facts, but
follow fine fancies and unworkable theories.

And what has the Republican party—the
opposition party—to say or propose in this
situation, brought about largely by its politi-
cal opponent? Its platform is vague and
general. Beyond calling the other fellow
some hard names and issuing some platitudes
which can be matched point for point in the
Democratic platform, there is nothing that
the anxious, patriotic citizen can do to. Republi-
can leaders in action and speech are
even more unsatisfactory, more negative than
the platform. And the Republican Presi-
dential candidate is silent!

The platform cannot be altered, the lead-
ers, judging from their records, cannot be
converted or inspired with new ideals; but
cannot something be gained from the candi-
date? Will he not tell us "in straight-flung
words and few" just where he stands on each
vexing and vital issue of the moment? We
do not want general statements, assurances
of words so arranged as not to offend this
or that body of voters, hyphenates, pacifists
or what not. We want to know beyond the
possibility of misunderstanding on which
side his influence will be cast when measures
introduced to solve present difficulties are
introduced in a new Congress, which, pray
God, will be devoted to patriotism, not to
perk. We want to know how he will use the
immense power of the office he seeks in set-
tling the issues between this nation and the
other great powers. We want to know him, if
he can give it, something to indicate that he
can be in some part the moral leader of
which the lack has been felt so much in
these past two years. We know he is an

THE FRYATT CASE

Germany Again Resorting to the Old Policy
of "Frightfulness."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There is ample evidence that the Ger-
man authorities still pin their faith to
"frightfulness" as a policy that pays. There
was the news the other day of the wholesale
deportations of urban populations in Belgium
and Northern France. There comes now the
bragging dispatch to Saville, giving details
of the execution of Captain Fyatt, of the
Great Eastern Railway steamship
Brussels, which was captured by German de-
stroyers last month and taken into Zee-
brugge. The opportunity to make a horrible
example, whereby (fond hope) other British
merchant captains should be terrorized into
docility, was too good to miss, nor could the
Teutonic mind realize that the news of this
legal butchery, flashed to neutral countries,
would arouse any response other than ad-
miration for German logic and reprobation
for the criminality of the deed.

On March 23, 1915, according to the Ger-
man account, Captain Fyatt, having been
summoned to stop by the submarine U-33,
instead of complying with the order, "turned
at high speed toward the submarine, which
only escaped by diving immediately several
yards below the surface." For this act he
and the first officer and first engineer of the
Brussels received from the British Admi-
rality gold watches for brave conduct. On
these grounds Captain Fyatt, having been
made prisoner by the Germans more than a
year later, was sentenced by court martial
and executed for a *franc-tireur* crime against
armed German sea forces.

Under German municipal law the legality
of the execution is, of course, unquestioned; for
German municipal law holds that every con-
traband is bound by the strictest letter of in-
ternational law, save only the Germans and
their allies. Thus, while a German subma-
rine may massacre unarmed men, women and
children by the score by sinking a Lusitania
unwarned, the commander properly viola-
ting the law of nations by sinking merchant
vessels without warning might, it would
seem, justly be regarded as outside the pale
of international law, outlaws, to be exter-
minated ruthlessly, like loathsome vermin,
wherever and whenever encountered. That
on this occasion a particular submarine took
the exceptional course of warning its victim
was no guarantee that on another occasion
it would do the same thing.

Of course the British Admiralty has in its
hand the power of retaliation. It can lead
out to execution the commanders of German
submarines who have been captured, and
this, with ample warrant, as just punishment
for their crimes against law and humanity.
But common prudence, apart from any other
consideration, will forbid this course; for if
it comes to reprisals, the nation which has
erected frightfulness into a theory of govern-
ment can safely be counted on to win.

New York, July 25, 1916.

A Contrast.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I think that it may ever be said that
to our shame we offered no protest to the
ravages of Belgium. We also seemed too in-
different to the destruction of the Lusitania
and dilly-dallied in the case in a protracted
and unsatisfactory manner, although in these
two great crimes a most appalling loss of life
was involved.

Yet now, when England sees fit to use its
commercial weapons to harass the nation that
is responsible for these two greatest of
crimes, a cry a hundred times as loud and
emphatic goes up. Not mere dollars and
cents are involved and we have our eyes
upon the possible injury to our ocean com-
merce which but for England's action in this
war would perhaps have almost disappeared
instead of increasing stupendously as it has.
I do not mean to claim that England is right
in this boycott matter, but rather to draw at-
tention to our lack of consistency and dis-
crimination.

F. G. BRILL.
De Land, Fla., July 25, 1916.

What the Progressives Want.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You are to be complimented for pub-
lishing in yesterday's Tribune the letter
written by Mr. F. W. Seward, Jr., had re-
turned from a meeting of our country com-
mittee and Mr. Seward's letter fully ex-
presses the feelings of 75 per cent of the
Progressives I have met. Personally I am
for Mr. Hughes and supported him for Gov-
ernor when some of the present machine Rep-
ublicans were, to say the least, not very
active in his support. If the machine lead-
ers think this is a good year to place any
sort of a